



**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**

FAS MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

General Site Conditions

1. All buildings are structurally sound, clean, painted, and free of litter, debris, and evidence of vandalism, inside and out. Doors and windows are sound and functioning. Locksets and latches function properly. Damaged lockset are repaired or replaced within 5 working days of the damage being reported. Each Region should keep several spare locksets on hand.
2. Grounds, vegetation, and fencing are free of litter, including accumulations of micro-litter (cigarette butts, bottle caps and pull tabs, broken glass, twist-ties, etc.), and debris, including tree, shrub, and grass clippings, windblown weeds, hay bales, lumber piles, and construction remnants. Unused or broken posts and footings are removed.
3. Fences are built to design standards and installed one foot inside the surveyed site boundary, except where terrain or other obstacles requires placement farther from the boundary.
4. Fences are structurally sound, posts are secure and plumb, rails don't sag, and wires are taut.
5. Fence stiles and pass troughs are structurally sound and steady, and openings are free of loose wire, barbed wire, nails, or other obstacles that could snag clothes or cause injury.
6. Picnic tables are structurally sound, chained to the ground, stained or painted, free of graffiti and vandalism, and with no significant damage, rot, cracking, warping, or hazards. Bench and table surfaces are inspected and cleaned at least once a week in high-use sites, and every two to three weeks at lower-use sites.
7. When picnic tabletops and benches need replacement, use pressure-treated wood. Fire rings are chained or pinned to the ground, or fixed in concrete, level, with grills intact and functioning. Glass, aluminum, and other trash are removed upon discovery. Charcoal, wood, and accumulated ash are cleaned out before they render the fire ring unusable, at least once a week during times of high-use. All garbage and cold ashes are disposed of in a dumpster or off-site. Only one fire ring is allowed for each campsite. Visitor-created fire rings will be dismantled, coals and ashes safely disposed of, rocks scattered (soot side down), and other visible signs of fire erased.
8. Dumpsters and garbage cans are metal and free of holes, major dents, and graffiti. Garbage cans are chained to the ground.

9. Garbage cans and dumpsters are emptied before they are three-quarter full, and pressure washed as often as needed (at least annually) to be free of grime and odors. Cans are lined with plastic bags and lids are in place. In bear habitat, only bear-proof garbage containers will be used.
10. Trails are well-graded and drained, with water bars or drainage dips to control runoff and erosion. Erosion controls are cleaned of fill before it renders them unusable, at least annually.
11. Handrails are structurally sound and properly braced, at a standardized height, and treated to resist rot and weather.
12. Vehicular and footbridges are structurally sound, with roadbed/tread secure, and guardrails and bull rails in place. Stringers and supports are inspected annually for structural integrity and load-bearing capacity.
13. Boat ramps are inspected each spring for ice and erosion damage. Dirt and gravel deposits are removed, and potholes and cracks repaired within 5 working days of their discovery (weather permitting). Boat ramp is swept clean of gravel, accumulated mud, and debris.
14. All holes or gouges deeper than 2 inches in concrete boat ramps are patched.
15. Exposed rebar ends in boat ramps are cut or bent to prevent damage or injury.
16. Wet end of boat ramp is maintained in a manner to prevent damage to trailers.
17. All erosion gullies and holes (in beaches, trails, roads, camp and picnic sites, on and around boat ramps) are reclaimed, with controls placed to prevent recurrence where possible.
18. Water sources (spigots, hydrants, gutter downspouts, etc.) are well drained, with French drains installed as needed. Drains function properly and are free of debris and clogs. All spigots have working back flush arrestors installed.
19. Water delivery systems are flushed, sanitized, and tested before site opening each season. Drinking water is tested in accordance with state regulations. Fixtures are free of rust and hard water deposits.
20. Water and wastewater delivery systems are flushed, drained, and shut down before the first hard freeze each season. Fixtures are protected from freeze damage by draining, flushing with RV anti-freeze, and covering, as needed.
21. Use areas or facilities being reclaimed are posted as closed, with barriers in place. When officially abandoned, use areas are promptly reclaimed and facilities are dismantled and removed.

22. Survey markers, locator paint, erosion barriers and other construction items are removed when no longer needed.
23. The tints of all painted surfaces conform to the standard pigment mix for those items.

Site Entrances, Roads, and Parking Areas

1. Entrance and site roads are graveled and well graded, free of debris, obstructions, potholes, ruts, erosion channels, washouts, and washboards. Preventive maintenance and repairs will be made annually.
2. At high-use, developed sites, or where neighboring landowners are adversely affected, dust control measures are applied as needed in consultation with landowners and consistent with state law. If a shared road with neighbors, a cooperative agreement needs to be developed to apportion costs for each party.
3. At high use sites that are kept open in the winter, roads are plowed when snow levels exceed 4 inches and paved roads sanded within one day of snowfall.
4. Vegetation is mowed and trimmed to allow ample vehicle clearance on all roads, and to maintain adequate sight lines at intersections and pedestrian crossings. Roadsides are mowed to a four-foot width to discourage roadside parking while maintaining sight lines.
5. Gates are structurally sound, readily visible, and functioning properly.
6. Gate posts are plumb, and posts and gate rails are painted, clean, and free of debris.
7. Cattle guards are structurally sound, properly braced, level, well drained, and free of weeds, debris, and accumulated dirt and gravel beneath the guard.
8. Spiked-in-place speed bumps and parking barriers are secure (with spikes driven flush) and structurally sound.
9. Road and parking barriers are used at a minimum and only when needed to protect soils and vegetation and to provide for visitor safety. As much as possible, use rock barriers and replace wooden posts with rock. Vegetation is trimmed around all barriers.
10. Road and parking barriers are sound. Posts are plumb and free of significant rot. Posts and boulders are aligned and readily visible to drivers.
11. Fee tubes are functioning, clean, painted, and free of rust, graffiti, dirt, and debris. Old fee tubes are replaced with the new, tamper-resistant models.
12. Where present, entrance stations are structurally sound and free of dirt, debris, and graffiti. Windows and doors are sound and functioning, free of dirt and evidence of vandalism.

Signs

1. Public roads to sites are signed. Signs are attractive, inviting, and direct and plain in describing the name and location of site. Signs lead logically to the site and are placed with good sight distances and at heights based on Montana Department of Transportation standards for the class of road and traffic.
2. FAS signs are constructed and installed in accordance with the FWP sign manual. They are of standard size, design, and color. They are consistent from one site to the next.
3. Signs are structurally sound, mounted securely, not faded, free of vandalism, and plumb.
4. Signs are mounted only on posts and bulletin boards. Trees are free of signs. Fences are free of signs except for site boundary signs. Buildings are free of signs except for:
 - a. ADA access signs
 - b. Restroom symbols
 - c. Interior restroom rules
 - d. Necessary building identification signs
 - e. Signs needed for safety (“Employees Only,” electrical and chemical hazard signs, fire exits, temporary closure signs)
5. Posts are structurally sound, plumb, and secure in the ground, and treated to prevent rot and insect damage. The same type of posts is used for all signs.
6. Paint and sign materials are in good condition and not faded or worn.
7. Signs are clean and free of dirt, mud, debris, graffiti, holes, sizable cracks, etc.
8. Signs within sites are placed appropriately, at standardized heights, where they can be easily seen and read by visitors. Temporary notices, administrative signs, and other “secondary” or visitor-posted signs are posted on bulletin boards and kiosks, not on the support posts.
9. Vegetation around signs is mowed or trimmed to provide good site distances.
10. Traffic and other road signs are placed in accordance with MDT standards.
11. Duplicate signs and abandoned posts are removed.
12. “Employees Only” or “Official Use” areas are clearly posted.
13. When a central bulletin board is available for seasonal notices and posters, it needs to be kept free of unofficial notices, private advertisements, old or weathered temporary signs, graffiti, and excess fasteners.

Mowing, Tree Care, and Weed Management

1. Vegetation is mowed in all primary visitor use areas, including trails to restrooms and picnic and camp sites, around fire grates, water spigots, picnic tables, restrooms, gates, vehicle barriers, signs and bulletin boards, iron rangers, and boat ramps.
2. Each region must develop a map or sketch of the preferred mowing patterns for each FAS, detailed enough to show roads, parking barriers, and individual camping and picnic sites, with shading to indicate where to mow.
3. Visitor use areas (picnic areas, paths, camp sites, restroom surroundings, etc.) are mowed and trimmed as needed. Frequency of mowing will depend on rate of growth, precipitation, soil conditions, use, and species and variety of grass.
4. A minimum of a 20-foot swath is mowed around all buildings, with allowances for fire-safe plantings, terrain, and other obstacles.
5. Vegetation is trimmed around sign posts, trash cans, picnic tables, restrooms, water spigots, benches, RV dump stations, well heads, and fire grills.
6. Grass and brush is mowed and trimmed to a four-foot wide swath on both sides of entrance and onsite roads.
7. Areas that sustain significant soil compaction, erosion, trail braiding, or vegetation damage will be restored by soil conditioning, replanting with native species, and limiting visitor use during recovery.
8. Where parking and road barriers (rails, logs, boulders, and posts) exist, vegetation is mowed and trimmed completely around the barriers (backside as well as front), except where terrain, shrubs and trees, or other obstacles preclude this.
9. Species on the state's list of noxious weeds are actively managed by spraying, pulling, or biological or mechanical controls. Noxious weeds comprise less than 10 percent of the site's vegetated area or as specified in the regional weed management plan.
10. Herbicides are used in accordance with all applicable laws and safety standards, and are applied using professional tools and techniques to protect employee and public safety, surface and ground water, and other resources. Temporary signs are posted to notify the public of spraying activity and the presence of herbicides.
11. In undeveloped areas, vegetation management may include grazing, haying, and controlled burning as appropriate to reduce noxious weeds, encourage native and wildlife-beneficial species, and improve habitat.
12. Trees and shrubs in visitor use areas (picnic and camp sites, restrooms, trails, etc.) are inspected regularly (at least annually) for rot, disease, and other conditions that pose a

risk to visitor safety. Trees and shrubs are actively managed to remove dead, diseased, or hazardous materials and to keep growth from impeding normal visitor use.

13. Broken or fallen trees and branches are removed when they present a hazard or obstruction. Cuttings are removed from site or rendered suitable for firewood.
14. New plantings are species native to the area, water wise, and situated to create a natural setting appropriate to the surrounding landscape.
15. New plantings may be temporarily supported with stakes and guy wires, screened from wildlife, and with boles sheathed during winter to protect from freezing.

Vault Latrines

Latrines are inspected and cleaned no less than twice a week from May 1 through September 30. More frequent cleaning may be required depending on use levels, weather conditions, and other factors.

Exterior Inspection

1. Roof is free of debris.
2. Roof doesn't leak.
3. Building is intact and structurally sound. Load bearing structures and finished surfaces are free of damage.
4. Paint is free of cracks, fading, graffiti, and other vandalism.
5. All paint matches and is the appropriate color.
6. Building is free of cobwebs, bird nests, leaning and windblown debris, dirt, dust, and mud.
7. Sidewalks and entry pad are level and meet ADA standards for accessibility where designed and constructed for that purpose.
8. Backfill is graded, vegetated, and mown to standard.
9. Where appropriate, men's, women's, unisex, and ADA symbols are posted on or near door.
10. Doors are free of mechanical defects, dents, and holes. Locksets and latches are ADA compliant, secure, and working. Weather stripping is intact and secure.
11. Door and trim are same paint color.
12. Door vent plates are in place, straight, and proper color.

13. Walls are free of tape, unauthorized signs, glue, gum, bumper stickers, etc.
14. Skylights and windows are in good repair, not leaking, free of insects, dirt, debris, and holes.

Interior Inspection

1. Toilet paper is available to meet demand.
2. Vault is pumped when within two to three feet of the risers.
3. Litter and waste are not present.
4. Painted floors, walls, and ceilings are clean, and they are repainted every three years, sooner if peeling, flaking, or stains require it.
5. Floors, walls, and ceilings are clean (no fly specks, tape, graffiti, feces, cobwebs, etc.).
6. Toilet paper racks/dispensers are appropriate size for use, works well, and is properly maintained.
7. Disabled assistance rails are placed appropriately, adequately secured, clean, and with a non-abrasive surface.
8. Solids in the vault are covered with liquid.
9. Vault does not leak.
10. Septic and sewage systems are maintained in accordance with state health regulations.
11. Seats and lids are clean and functioning, level-stops are in place—not chipped or stained.
12. Outside and inside risers are clean, with no feces, graffiti, or urine stains.
13. Floors are swept and wet mopped.
14. Indoors smells sanitized and odors are actively managed.
15. Flies, spiders, and other insects are controlled. Where fly strips are used, they are changed frequently.
16. The frequency of cleaning to meet these standards depends in part on use levels. At low use levels, rest rooms are cleaned a minimum of once a week. At moderate use levels, rest rooms are cleaned a minimum of once every three days. At high use levels, rest rooms are cleaned a minimum of once each day. During extremely low use seasons (typically winter), rest rooms may need cleaning less often to meet the above standards.